

# Lowering air conditioning costs this summer is going to take the right people to pull a few strings.



If everyone that used central air conditioning pulled the cords to lower their shades or installed awnings or sun screens to keep the heat out during the day, we could actually save enough energy to keep an entire power plant from being built.

## SAVE ENERGY – NO COST, NO SWEAT

You're probably operating your air conditioner in the low 70's. But, did you know that you could save 10-20% on your cooling costs if you set your thermostat at 78° (health permitting) when you're home? And here's another tip. Try using ceiling or portable fans to help make up the difference. Ceiling fans can actually make you feel 7 degrees cooler compared to non-moving air.

It's also important to clean filters regularly and inspect them monthly during the summer.

## LOW-COST WAYS TO KEEP YOUR COOL

Install shades, awnings and sun screens on windows that face south and/or west to block heat. This keeps your home cooler so your air conditioner doesn't have to work as hard, and can save up to 5% of your monthly cooling energy usage.



Many parts of California have cool nights even in the heat of summer. Night ventilation cooling works well and can be enhanced with a whole house fan.

Install an ENERGY STAR® labeled programmable thermostat to prevent unnecessary cooling and save 3-5% of your monthly energy usage.

Using a room fan in place of air conditioning can save up to 5% of your monthly cooling costs.



## COOL INVESTMENTS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

If your air conditioner is ten years or older, replacing it with an ENERGY STAR® model can save up to 20% of your monthly cooling costs.

Get air conditioning ducts tested for air leakage. Leaking ducts can reduce the efficiency of your cooling system 25-30%.

Change out old windows with new high efficiency ones. High performance windows can reduce cooling costs by up to 15%.



## HEAT RELIEF

You may be eligible for additional assistance in managing your Pacific Gas and Electric Company bill. For information about the CARE, REACH, HEAP and PG&E Energy Partners programs, or the Balanced Payment Plan, call 1-800-PGE-5000.

*Pacific Gas and Electric Company has been a leader in energy conservation for over 25 years. For more advice on conserving energy and simple, everyday tips, visit [WWW.PGE.COM](http://WWW.PGE.COM)*



**Pacific Gas and  
Electric Company™**

The more you know about conserving energy, the less energy you need.